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THE ILLINOIS

LITERACY EFFORT



UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS-URBANA



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George H. Ryan
Secretary of State
and State Librarian



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Secretary of State George H. Ryan reads to children of adult literacy students.

Dear Friend,

Children cannot learn to read from parents who cannot read. During the day, many of us read newspapers, street signs, memos, menus and bedtime stories. We take reading for granted, but 4 million adults in Illinois have difficulty reading well enough to perform basic day-to-day tasks. Many of these adults are parents who do not know the joy of reading to their children.

My Literacy Office coordinates three grant programs that provide resources to help those who have difficulty reading. The key to success for these programs is our network of dedicated volunteer tutors, but we need even more to reach everyone requiring our help. In the city of Chicago alone, for every volunteer tutor, there are 10 students waiting for assistance.

You can make a difference. By becoming a volunteer tutor, you can play an important role in our effort to improve life for all Illinois citizens and their families. You can be the light in the dark that leads the way to adult learning.

GEORGE H. RYAN
Secretary of State
and State Librarian

Addressing Illinois' literacy needs

Secretary of State and State Librarian George H. Ryan dedicates \$6 million annually to address literacy needs in three arenas. Each program focuses on creating partnerships to improve the lives of Illinois adults and their families.

Community Volunteer Literacy Grants create partnerships between education agencies, businesses, government, libraries, and other literacy advocates to teach reading, writing, math and English as a Second Language to adults age 16 and older. Volunteer tutors are the backbone of these programs and are in constant demand.

Family Literacy Grants require a three-way partnership between an adult literacy program, a program serving children at risk, and a public library. These grants focus on activities that involve parents and children reading and learning together.

Workplace Literacy Grants are partnerships between business, labor and education. Businesses receive public funds, which they match with their own private dollars to offer on-site basic skills programs. The education partner visits the business, determines reading, writing, or math needs, and creates a program to address those needs.



Illinois Literacy Council

The Illinois Literacy Council, chaired by Secretary of State George H. Ryan, is a statewide coalition of business, labor, education, government and media representatives. Council members promote adult learning, share expertise, and shape policy at state and local levels. The following are members of the Literacy Council:

Candy Anderson, Motorola
Rosemary Anderson, The Anderson Co.
Gwen Bates, Literacy in Action-DuPage
Luz Maria Berd, Ill. Benedictine College
Sterling Burke, IBM Corporation
Brian Carey, Elk Grove Village
Lynn Doherty, Ill. Dept. of Employment Security
Nancy Drew, Ill. Adult & Continuing Educators Assoc., Inc.
Geraldine Evans, Ill. Community College Board
Bob Haisman, IEA-NEA
Ed Harmeyer, Ill. Manufacturers' Assoc.
Marilyn Harrison, Ill. Congress of Parents & Teachers
Lyric Hughes, T.L.I. International Corp.
Sally Jackson, Ill. State Chamber of Commerce
Donald A. Johnson, Ill. State AFL-CIO
Morris Kalish, The Leemor Group
Marjorie Kroehler, Ill. Literacy, Inc.
Dorothy Le Brun, Amer. Assoc. of Retired Persons
Lee Logan, Ill. Library Assoc.
Meryle S. Merlo, Chicago
Valerie Meyer, The Reading Center
Dorothy Miaso, Literacy Volunteers of America-Illinois, Inc.
Antoinette Minuzzo, Delta Kappa Gamma Int'l.
Betty Neely, Herrin
Alexis H. Sarkisian, Ask Alexis, Inc.
Timothy Shanahan, Univ. of Ill. at Chicago
Dennis Sienko, Prairie State 2000 Authority
Joseph Spagnolo, Ill. State Board of Education
Karen Taylor, Management Assoc. of Ill.
Norman Walzer, Western Ill. Univ.
Odie Washington, Ill. Dept. of Corrections
Dennis Whetstone, Ill. Dept. of Commerce & Community Affairs
Robert Wright, Ill. Dept. of Public Aid



Words are just symbols on a page for millions of Illinois adults. Volunteer tutors help Illinois adults learn basic skills.

The Illinois Adult Learning Hotline is a statewide referral system for students and volunteer tutors. The hotline is jointly funded by the Secretary of State and the Illinois State Board of Education.

4,000,000 Illinois adults are waiting for your call...

(800) 321-9511

The above photo was taken by Greg Baker, photographer, for the Rockford Area Literacy Council.

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